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[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Cerebro-spinal meningitis—Abstract of replies received to circular requesting information.

[Continued from last PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.]

ARKANSAS.—Cerebro-spinal meningitis has appeared very generally throughout the State of Arkansas since October 1, 1898, most notably in the counties of Jefferson, Pulaski, Conway, Crawford, and Sebastian. Deaths have been reported mostly in the valleys of the Arkansas and White rivers. The number of cases in any locality in the State can not be stated, there being no State or local law or regulation requiring cases of the disease to be reported. In the city of Little Rock 57 deaths have been reported as having been caused by cerebro-spinal fever, meningitis, cerebritis, spinal fever, and brain fever from December 21, 1898, to April 1, 1899. A number of deaths have also been reported as caused by congestion of the brain during the same period.

The deaths in Little Rock by months were, December, 1898, 1; January, 1899, 11; February, 1899, 19; March, 1899, 26. The mortality has been extremely high wherever the disease has prevailed. No particular investigations have been made as to its etiology and pathology.

The disease is now decreasing in the localities where it first appeared and is just beginning to be noticed in other localities, particularly in northern Arkansas, where it has not prevailed to any alarming extent until recently.

CONNECTICUT—*Danbury*.—An outbreak of cerebro-spinal meningitis was reported, April 20, with 6 cases and 3 deaths.

MARYLAND—*Baltimore*.—During the week ended April 22, 1899, 2 cases and 6 deaths of cerebro-spinal meningitis were reported.

OHIO—*Gallipolis*.—No cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis in this locality or county.

SOUTH CAROLINA—*Charleston*.—One case was reported during the month of March, 1899. This is the only case known to have occurred in this city since October 1, 1898.

TEXAS—*Galveston*.—During the week ended April 8, 3 deaths from cerebro-spinal meningitis were reported.

WASHINGTON—*Spokane*.—Three cases and 2 deaths are reported under date of April 17. A few cases have been observed in the Puget Sound district. The diplococcus intracellularis meningitidis has been found during the past year in the nasal secretion of 4 cases and in the pus obtained at autopsies in 2 fatal cases.

Smallpox in the United States.

ALABAMA.

Mobile.—Surgeon Murray reports, April 14, investigation of 2 new cases at Escatawpa, Miss. Smallpox prevalent in Tallapoosa County, Ala. April 22, he reports 1 new case in Mobile.

ARKANSAS.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Gibson reports the following extract from the report of the secretary of the State board of health :

Fulton County.—January 1 to April 10, 250 cases, 6 deaths.

Izard County.—January 1 to April 10, 60 cases, 1 death.

Lonoke County.—October, 1898, to April 10, 1899, smallpox prevalent.

Phillips County.—January 1 to April 10, smallpox prevalent.

Pulaski County.—January 1 to April 10, 23 cases, 4 deaths.

Sebastian County.—January 1 to April 10, 100 cases (estimated).

Yell County.—January 1 to April 10, 50 cases (estimated):

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Washington.—Health Officer Woodward reports, April 20, no change in the status of smallpox since the 18th; April 22, 1 new case; April 24, 2 new cases; April 26, no change since the 24th.

FLORIDA.

The Florida Health Notes for April gives the status of smallpox in that State as follows:

Columbia County.—March 1-31, 4 cases.

Escambia County.—March 1-31, 2 cases.

Jackson County.—March 1-31, smallpox prevalent among negro population; death rate, 6 or 7 per cent.

Marion County.—March 1-31, 102 cases; principally in the mining population near Dunnellon.

Polk County.—March 1-31, smallpox prevalent; origin, Dunnellon.

St. Johns County.—February 1 to March 31, 64 cases, no deaths. It is thought the disease is impetigo.

Suwanee County.—March 1-31, 4 cases.

Key West.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Plummer reports, April 20, no new cases since March 30, and that the smallpox hospital will be closed.

GEORGIA—*Savannah.*—Acting Assistant Surgeon Jarrell reports, April 17, 2 cases of smallpox, 1 from Montgomery, Ala.

KENTUCKY—*Lebanon Junction.*—Passed Assistant Surgeon McIntosh reports, April 19, 8 cases of smallpox.

ILLINOIS.

Chicago.—Surgeon Sawtelle reports April 20, 2 new cases of smallpox, and April 22, 3 new cases.

LOUISIANA.

New Orleans.—The secretary of the State board of health reports from April 16-22, 9 new cases of smallpox.

Shreveport.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Booth reports, April 18, 1 case of smallpox; origin, Mexico. Precautions taken against the spread of the disease. April 22, he reports another case.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Boston.—Surgeon Irwin reports, April 17, 2 new cases of smallpox.

MINNESOTA.

Dr. Bracken, secretary of the State board of health, reports as follows:

Brainerd.—April 16-22, 1 case.

Minneapolis.—April 9-15, 1 case.

St. Paul.—April 9-15, 1 case.

NEW YORK.

Buffalo.—Passed Assistant Surgeon Stoner reports, April 20, 1 case of smallpox; origin unknown.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Dr. Benjamin Lee, secretary of the State board of health, reports, April 12, as follows:

Since my last report, March 30, 1899, smallpox has been reported in Pennsylvania as follows:

Allegheny County.—Four cases.

Cambria County.—One case.

Blair County.—Twenty-two cases.

Fayette County.—Twenty cases.

Somerset County.—Forty-eight cases.

Washington County.—One case.

RHODE ISLAND.

Providence.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Bowman reports, April 21, 2 cases of smallpox in a sailors' boarding house. Origin not known.

TEXAS.

Galveston.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Keiller reports, April 12, as follows:

During the week ended April 8, 1899, 2 new cases of smallpox developed in patients held in quarantine because of contact with previously reported cases. No new foci in the city.

During the week ended April 15, 1899, there were 8 new cases and no deaths.

WISCONSIN.

Milwaukee.—Dr. Wingate, secretary of the State board of health, reports April 24, 3 cases of smallpox, origin unknown, cases quarantined in their homes.

Laredo.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Hamilton reports April 8 as follows:

New cases of smallpox at Laredo, Tex., for week ended April 8, 17; the larger number are mild cases or varioloid. * * * Marine-Hospital Service quarantine inspectors at international bridge and ferry report vaccinated, 52. Deported for nonvaccination or disease, 12. Total number examined for week ended April 8, 1,825. I have ordered deputy collector at Carrizo, Tex., to have a Marine-Hospital Service quarantine guard make an investigation at Guerrero, Mexico, as to smallpox. I am investigating myself Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. I find there has not been a new case there for the past five days. They are

making a house-to-house vaccination which, of course, includes inspection for smallpox. They have established a hospital for smallpox cases that can not be isolated within the city and are now, I believe, taking modern methods to stamp out the disease, so that by the time Laredo, Tex., becomes clean Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, will also be clean of smallpox. I will continue investigation.

He reports April 18, as follows:

I continue to inspect all passenger trains from Mexico. I quarantine against Tampico, Vera Cruz, and in fact all Mexican seaports on the Mexican Gulf, although according to reports, yellow fever exists only at Vera Cruz, but still the other points might be considered suspicious. Up to this writing persons only from Tampico and Vera Cruz have arrived at this port. On April 9, 1 passenger, two days from Tampico, was put off train and returned to Tampico same day to go to New York by steamer. April 10 stopped a man three days out from Tampico. April 11, 2 men two days out from Tampico. The last 3 had their baggage disinfected by steam disinfector on the Mexican side, and under my supervision held at Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, five days after disinfection and then allowed to enter.

To-day, April 18, I stopped a passenger three days out from Vera Cruz. I will supervise the disinfection of his baggage by steam disinfector and hold at Nuevo Laredo for five days afterwards. The Mexican Government is now running its steam disinfector almost daily, disinfecting baggage going into Mexico and also coming this way, when so required. I had a disinfector placed in good working condition last year at the expense of the Mexican National Railroad Company, and used it to disinfect baggage of persons coming from Monterey and other quarantined points. It still remains in good running order.

The smallpox situation is improving at this point. New cases for the week ended April 15, 9; deaths during same week, 10.

Marine-Hospital Service quarantine inspection at international foot bridge and ferry reports for the week ended April 8: Vaccinated, 43; deported crippled immigrants, 2; deported mendicants, 3; for refusal of vaccination, 3; examined and passed without vaccination, 1,659; total examined, 1,710. This number does not include all persons that enter over bridge and ferry, as after vaccination and examination of any person who passes frequently he is not examined if the vaccination proves successful, and is, therefore, not counted. That accounts for the falling off in number of the total of persons examined since guards were placed on duty.

I hereby acknowledge receipt of telegram dated April 18, 1899, as follows:

"Discontinue guards at Carrizo and San Ignacio, to take effect April 20."

I have asked deputy collector at Carrizo, Tex., to do so, and instructed guards accordingly.

I had ordered the guard at Carrizo, Tex., to make a good investigation of Guerrero, Mexico, and he reported that there had been no smallpox there since March, and the authorities assured him that they had a strict quarantine on against Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and Laredo, Tex. I, therefore, thought danger of infection through Guerrero to Zapata County over, and advised the discharge of employees, especially as the smallpox in both Laredos is now under control.

April 25, Dr. Hamilton telegraphs as follows: "Have two from Vera Cruz quarantined at Nuevo Laredo, Mexico." * * *

VIRGINIA.

Newport News.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Charles reports as follows: April 14, 1899, 4 new cases; April 16, 2 new cases; April 17, 3 new cases; April 18, no new cases; April 19, no new cases; April 20, no new cases; April 21, new cases, 8; April 22, new cases, 1; April 23, new cases, 2; April 24, new cases, 2.

Norfolk.—Assistant Surgeon Cumming reports, April 13, 1899, as follows: New cases, 3; discharged, 9; deaths, none; April 14, new case, 1; discharged, 8; April 15, new cases, 3; discharged, none; April 16, new cases, 4; discharged, 10; April 17, new cases, 3; discharged, none; April 18, new cases, 6; discharged, 13; April 19, new cases, 5; discharged, none; April 20, new cases, 14; discharged, 12. Ten cases carried to county pesthouse. April 21, no new cases; discharged, 2; April 22, new cases, 2; discharged, 5; April 23, new cases, 2; discharged, 13; April 24, new cases, 6; discharged, none.

Portsmouth.—Assistant Surgeon Cumming reports as follows: April 13, new cases, 4; discharged, none; April 14, new cases, 3; discharged, 6; April 15, 1 new case; discharged, 1; April 16, 2 new cases; discharged, none; April 17, 3 new cases; discharged, 6; April 18, no new cases; discharged, 5; April 19, 8 new cases; discharged, 8; April 20, 1 new case; discharged, none; April 21, 3 new cases; discharged, none; April 22, 2 new cases; discharged, none; April 23, 3 new cases; discharged, 1; April 24, 2 new cases; discharged, 3.

Smallpox in the United States as reported to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service, December 31, 1898, to April 28, 1899.

Places.	Date.	Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
Alabama:				
Antauga County.....	Feb. 24.....	.....	.....	Smallpox reported.
Calvert.....	Dec. 10-Jan. 20.....	10	.....	Do.
Catherina.....	Jan. 6.....	.....	.....	Several cases.
Clarke County.....	Dec. 25-Jan. 20.....	.....	2	Smallpox reported.
Clay County.....	Jan. 27.....	.....	.....	Do.
Collerine.....	Jan. 6.....	1	.....	Do.
Dallas County.....	Jan. 27.....	.....	.....	Do.
Green County.....	.....do.....	.....	.....	Do.
Hale County.....	.....do.....	.....	.....	Do.
Lowndes County.....	.....do.....	.....	.....	Do.
Marengo County.....	.....do.....	.....	.....	Do.
Mobile.....	Jan. 2-Apr. 22.....	27	.....	Do.
Montgomery County.....	Feb. 24.....	.....	.....	Do.
Randolph County.....	Jan. 27.....	.....	.....	Do.
Southside.....	Jan. 6.....	96	.....	Smallpox prevalent.
Tallapoosa County.....	Apr. 14.....	.....	.....	Do.
Washington County.....	Jan. 27.....	.....	.....	Do.
Wilcox County.....	.....do.....	.....	.....	Do.
Total for the State.....	.....	134	2	Officially reported.
Arkansas:				
Pulaski County.....	Jan. 27-Mar. 1.....	8	1	
California:				
Los Angeles.....	Sept. -Mar. 25.....	83	14	
Sacramento City.....	.....do.....	1	.....
San Diego.....	Feb. 19.....	1	1	
San Francisco.....	Jan. 31.....	2	.....
Total for the State.....	.....	87	15	Do.
Colorado:				
Arapahoe County.....	Nov. 25-Mar. 31.....	38	5	
El Paso County.....	Jan. 31.....	2	.....
Fremont County.....	Dec. 1-Jan. 31.....	24	.....
Los Animas County.....	Jan. 31.....	12	.....
Pueblo County.....	Dec. 17-Jan. 31.....	60	4	
Total for the State.....	.....	136	9	Do.